System to reorganize how television channels are displayed

Abstract:

Current TV, VCR, Satellite Receiving Systems and other electronic devices allow the user to receive a large variety of channels. They only allow the user (or users) to view the channels by inputting specific channel numbers or using the up and down buttons to move incrementally in the order as received by the provider. These system can block out channels such that a channel is skipped when flipping through the system or a user (or users) can set up a favorite lists to bring ease of use when dealing with the multitude of channels when watching or recording Television. These functions are still very limiting.

I claim

1) A method and system to improve the functionality of television viewing or recording by enabling the user to program their own customized channel sequences. The system would treat the channels in two distinct ways. A television or other related device picks up specific wavelengths and signals to provide each individual channel in its normal course of operating. The system would receive the channels from the provider in the present manner, which will be called "receiving." The system will show the channels in an alternate way, which will be called "displaying." The user will be enabled to organize the channels in any order that the user may choose. Thus when the user flips through the channels they will show up in the order of displaying instead of "receiving". This new method either built as an independent box or into a system (such as television, VCR, Satellite System or other electronic device) would change the order how each receiving signal is displayed. This would allow the user to visually program the order in which each channel is shown so that the user can put the channels in the users desired order.

2) The above system would also allow programming for multiple users, through use of a user code for each user, to set up there own alternative display order.

Description:

It is presently difficult and cumbersome when viewing or recording existing television programs given the large multitude of channels that are provided. The normal viewer only watches a fraction of the channels as provided and must waste time and energy going by these channels when flipping through television channels. The user can use a function to turn off a channel but that still means the user has to accept the channels in the order as provided. This invention relates to improving the functionality of these systems such that the user has more control and choices. This method will allow the user to overlay the channel sequence as received by the provider with a new set and order of what will be call display channels

As an Example if the current channels provided to the user were as follows the user could reorder the display sequence:

Signal Comes in as "Receiving"	Station Name	Desire to Reprogram as "Displaying"
2	Local CBS	11
3	Local NBC	12
4	Local ABC	13
5	Local FOX	14
6	Local UPN	15
7	Local PBS	16
8	TBS	2
9	TNT	3
10	USA	4
11	SCIFI	blocked
12	Lifetime	blocked
13	ESPN	5
14	Home Shopping	blocked
15	C-Span	6
16	CNN	8
17	Fox News	7
18	Soap	blocked
19	Food	9
20	Home & Garden	10

After programming

"Receiving"		"Displaying"
18	TBS	2
9	TNT	3
10	USA	4
13	ESPN	5
15	C-Span	6
17	Fox News	7
16	CNN	8
19	Food	9
20	Home & Garden	10
2	Local CBS	11
3	Local NBC	12
4	Local ABC	13
5	Local FOX	14
6	Local UPN	15
7	Local PBS	16
11	SCIFI	blocked
12	Lifetime	blocked
14	Home Shopping	blocked

The user can put the channels in the users desired order. The device would know to bounce from receiving channels 8 to 9 to 10 and then to 13 to 15 to 17 to 16 when the television would show the user it was going from 2 to 3 to 4 to 5 to 6 to 7 and to 8. Multiple users would be allowed to set up their own desired sequence and viewing options. Blocked channels would fall to the end of the line within the sequence order.

This would make channel surfing for every user easier and more effective. The user would be able to discard un-wanted channels from normal channel surfing. The user would also be able to put the wanted channels in their own desired order such that if a user wanted all the news channels together than they can keep the news channels together. If the user only normally like watching a limited number of stations then they can keep all the unwanted stations from being in the way. The user could always be able to switch back to the standard channel order but this provides more options and more functionality for each viewer. It is also important that multiple users can set up their own display order so that each person can have their own setup for ease of use.